

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 51

Friday, November 15, 2024

## 8th annual Small Works Show opens Nov. 15

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – This Friday evening, get a head start on your holiday gift giving while putting the “small” in shopping small and local.

West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will be hosting its 8th annual “Small Works Show” featuring a number of local artists, including Jennifer Geldard, Karen Bullock, Vanessa Varjian, Abigail Rorer, Cruger Johnson Phillips, Cheryl O’Donnell, Susan Pecora, Carole Bentley, Joanne Quinn, Lisa Cohen and gallery owner Rebecca Fay.

An artists’ reception will be held Friday, Nov. 15 from 5-7 p.m. at the gallery at 10 East Main St., and includes wine and cheese, as well as pleasant conversation with art-loving



West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery owner and artist Rebecca Fay will be selling giclee prints of her Christmas lights paintings, including “Christmas Lights 3” during the 8th annual Small Works Show, opening on Friday, Nov. 15 from 5-7 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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## QVFPC reviews community food access assessment

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council welcomed new Coordinator Sawyer Blake at its general body meeting held on Oct. 23.

Blake is a 2021 graduate of Smith College, having studied food sustainability and biol-

ogy. They interned with local food nonprofits Grow Food Northampton and Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

“My senior capstone project was studying HIP [Healthy Incentives Program] usage and comparing it to SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] usage,”

See QVFPC | PAGE 8

## Winter Farmer’s Market returns for the 2024/2025 season

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – It was a Wednesday, and the temperature was that of a summer’s day.

In shirtsleeves and sans jacket, it was time for a farmers market, yet there were no vendors set up on the town common on this lovely after-

noon.

Whatever the climate, the calendar disagreed. It was the first Wednesday in November and the West Brookfield Farmer’s Market had been over for a few weeks.

There was no reason to go into mourning. All one had to do was cross the street from

See MARKET | PAGE 12

## Board appoints outreach coordinator for Senior Center

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen appointed Nicole Eccleston to the position of Program and Outreach Coordinator at the Senior Center.

Eccleston has been serving as the interim Program and Outreach Coordinator since October.

“I’m excited,” Eccleston said at the Nov. 4 meeting. “I’ve helped a lot of North Brookfield people already in just the few weeks I’ve been here.”

Spending requests  
The Fire Department requested approval to spend \$5,000 on annual inspections,

including mandatory testing for firehoses and nozzles and \$1,500 to repair the radiator on Engine 2.

“It’s been patched here and there for two years and needs to be repaired properly,” Pe-traitis said.

The board approved the spending requests contingent on when the mandatory inspections need to be conducted and if there is enough money in the budget to pay for them.

### Right of first refusal

The board waived its right of first refusal for a parcel of land totaling 5.712 acres that is currently in Chapter 61A on Crooks Road known as lot B.

Planning Board Chair William King sent a recommenda-

See BOARD | PAGE 8

## Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce held annual meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting last week at the Public House, featuring keynote speaker Colleen Campbell.

At the Nov. 7 meeting, newly elected President Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency, said her family’s company has been a part of the

See MEETING | PAGE 13



Robyn Scott with her Blair House Blooms’ bulbs. TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY



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# - community -

## Rotary Club and Planet Aid donate to coat drive

BROOKFIELD – The Rotary Club of the Brookfields and Planet Aid partnered together to donate 100 coats for the Clam Box Coat Drive in Brookfield on Nov. 3.

The owners of the Clam Box have been running the Coat Drive for the past 26 years and have collected over 15,000 coats to help those in need during that time. Providing the patrons with a delicious free fish dinner for their donation of coats.

The coats will be going to the Friendly House in Worcester where they will be given out on Thanksgiving day.

It is through the generosity of the people in the communities that make this Coat Drive so successful.



The Rotary Club of the Brookfields partnered with Planet Aid to donate 100 coats for the Clam Box Coat Drive this past Sunday. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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## Sturbridge to offer small business signage grant program

STURBRIDGE – The Town of Sturbridge is pleased to announce a grant program to help small businesses improve or create new signage.

Qualified businesses will be eligible for a grant for up to \$2,500 for sign creation or improvements to existing signage. The program will require a 50% match.

The purpose of the program is to create a positive visual impact for businesses as they work to attract patronage. Enhanced aesthetics for businesses have

been shown to increase property values, improve the marketability of retail space and attract consumers who may be local residents or visitors from afar.

Financing for this grant availability will be sourced through American Rescue Plan funds with a total allocation of \$30,000.

Robin Grimm, Sturbridge Town Administrator commented in a press release; “We are very excited to be offering this new resource that will help businesses

improve their visibility and ‘curb appeal.’ Sturbridge is a well trafficked location so attractive signage strengthens our small businesses and elevates the streetscape of our town.”

Alexandra McNitt, Executive Director of the Chamber of Central Mass South, said, “It is great to see this new program which can help businesses improve their public profile and in turn increase their sales and foot traffic. The Chamber looks forward to working with

its member businesses to access this program.”

Businesses that are interested in applying or just have questions can contact Terry Masterson, Economic Development/Tourism Coordinator with the Town at 508-347-2500, extension 1411. Accessing the grant program will require advance work with the Town on following Town Signage Design regulations as well as approving the costs for sign creation or improvements.

# Tantasqua Regional High School Technical Division

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- community -

# First Congregational participates in White Christmas festivities

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., will host an open house on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. during the town’s White Christmas celebration.

The kitchen opens at noon and the menu includes: a plentiful and delicious hot turkey sandwich with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce, hot dogs and chili dogs, homemade chicken soup and corn chowder, chicken, egg and ham salad sandwiches, homemade pie - apple, blueberry and pumpkin, a variety of hot and cold drinks.

They will also offer a huge gift card raffle, a concert by a performance by the Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir at 3 p.m., a Christmas carol sing along with free cookies and cocoa at 4 p.m., “Find-the-Elf” for the kids, free door prize raffle and a bountiful baked-goods table.

A special treat this year, is a raffle for a gorgeous handmade quilt. The pattern name is Pineapple Blossom and measures approximately 61 inches by 71 inches.

DJ Mic will be spinning Christmas tunes, and the atmosphere will be festive and cheery. The church is a wonderful place to be to welcome in the holiday season.

Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.



The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield will be raffling off this handmade quilt during its open house on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., held in conjunction with the town’s White Christmas celebration.



This quilt features a “pineapple blossom” pattern and measures 61 inches by 71 inches. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

## Surprise squash or is it a pumpkin?

Compost the lazy person's way – no thermometers, frequent turning or aerating is done at my house.

I simply pile my vegetable refuse, leaves, coffee grinds and plant parts in a pile with copious amounts of chicken bedding. Once in a blue moon I'll mix it all up with a pitchfork, but that is all I do.

I'm not saying it's the right way, but it's my preferred way. After a certain point in the fall, I start a new pile and let the old one sit until spring when I use the compost in the garden.

Often, I end up with some surprise plants growing in the pile from the previous year after I've taken what I need. I call them volunteers.

For the last two years I've grown my best tomatoes in the compost pile. No accolades need to come my way, I did nothing to earn the luxury of garden fresh tomatoes in November.

Well, maybe covering the plants with layers of cloth on the few cold nights has helped some, I guess, otherwise they would be frosted like the rest of the tender plants.

But alas, once again I digress. I am not here to talk about the tomatoes that grew in the compost pile, but the squash that did. I may have mentioned these white pumpkin lookalikes in an earlier column, but as I sit here devouring a squash muffin, they deserve another mention.

While my hills of butternut were not very prolific, the white pumpkin lookalike squash were unbelievably so. Honestly, I am not sure how many plants sprouted. Maybe three at the most, and I easily ended up with maybe two dozen, so the average is seven or eight fruit per plant!

I bought the original at a local farm and as it turned to an imploded pile of mush, it got chucked into the compost pile last fall. After sprouting it took no time flat for the vines to cover the pile and adjoining fence and lawn, much to my husband's dismay.

After a quick internet search, the white pumpkin lookalike squash still doesn't have a name. It could be part acorn squash, or a variant of a white pumpkin.

All I know is that they made excellent fall decor!

Just for the fun of it I cooked one up, in the same manner I do butternuts, by slicing in half, removing the seeds and roasting cut side down in a 400 degree oven for about an hour.

The pale yellow flesh caramelized a little. Perhaps I should have finished the cooking cut side up to attain more of that caramelization.

While not incredibly sweet, it didn't taste bad or bitter, so I whipped it up with the immersion blender and decided I'd try it in my favorite squash muffin recipe. Not bad, not bad at all.

My husband asked if I was going to raid the porch of it's decorations to process more of them, but I don't think I'll go that far. If November is mild, I'll certainly have a windfall once we switch over to a Christmas theme.

What do I learn from the compost pile? Although the garden is right next to the compost pile, the white squash pumpkins had virtually no damage from the squash vine borer.

The plants were so much healthier than

## - opinion -



A Brimfield resident, who emails quite often noticed three turkey vultures on Sunday, Oct. 20

He said, "I went outside and I saw soon seven turkey vultures flying by along the ridge east of the house. The birds drifted off to the south east. A few minutes later a group of ten vultures drifted slowly south about a half a mile west of the first group. These birds flew around for awhile, circling

and gaining altitude until the were quite high. The ten birds then drifted out of sight."

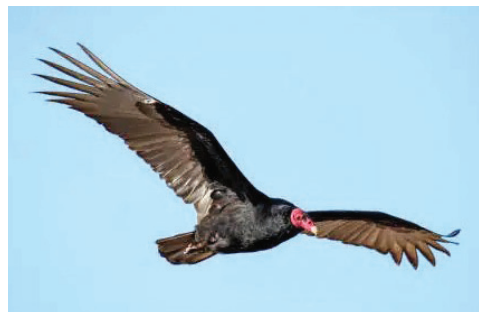
The turkey vulture is 26 inches tall and has black feathers. The trailing end of the wings are silver and the head has no feathers and is red. Immature turkey vultures have gray heads.

They are often seen soaring with wings held in a V. They rock side to side, but rarely flap their wings.

Turkey vultures feed by scavenging on carrion, fresh or decayed. They find their food by both sight and smell. Sometimes, they are seen in roads feeding on road kill. They are often seen coming or going to nightly roosts. They use thermals of warm air and updrafts to stay in the air. When the thermals and updrafts end and they have to flap, they usually stop flying and land.

When perched, they will spread their wings. I saw one several years doing this against a high tension pole in Oakham.

The female lays one to three dull white eggs, occasionally with dark marks in a nest scraped on bare ground, in a hollow stump, cave, cliff edge or old building. Grunts and hisses are heard at the nest site often during



Turkey vulture

competition over food.

### Pond tour

The Brimfield resident sent an email and reported he and his wife did a tour of some of the ponds in Brimfield, Holland and Warren on Sunday, Nov. 3. He said, "In Brimfield (Sherman Pond) and Holland (Holland Pond) we saw a few pairs of hooded mergansers and a belted kingfisher at the pond in Warren on South Street. Other ponds had lots of Canada geese and mallards."

He also said, "In the yard recently the most exciting sighting was a Carolina wren that showed up briefly a couple of times. Then yesterday we had an immature accipiter was seen sitting on top of one of our feeding stations." He wrote, "The bird was either a female sharp-shinned hawk or a male Coopers hawk based on size, it was a little bigger than a mourning dove, the bird's size was in the area where the sizes of the two species overlap. The tail shape is suppose to help differentiate the species but I'm not confident about the tail shape, I'm not sure which species we saw?"

Later in the day he saw a fox sparrow doing the sparrow feeding behavior, jumping back and forth to stir up ground looking for seeds. He said, "That was the first fox sparrow seen this fall. One or two are usually seen during fall migration."

### Moose

Although not bird related – no feathers on this critter – I saw a moose cross New Braintree Road in Oakham one evening. It was dark, but I did get a good view of its rear portion as it went over a stone wall and into the woods.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowne@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

those I planted in the garden. The leaves were large and deep green.

I've said it before and I'll say it again times three: Nitrogen, nitrogen, nitrogen. That's one thing my compost pile has that the garden needs. I will definitely not skimp on that nutrient come springtime so that maybe, just maybe, I can grow my beloved butternut squashes on purpose and health-

ily!  
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

### Send opinions to:

Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to pouimette@turley.com. Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

- community -

# QRSD offers internship opportunities

From the desk of Colleen Mucha,  
Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District

This fall, 39 of the Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2024 seniors are completing internships.

The guidance department strives to find opportunities that align with student's future goals whether it be to join the workforce, military or to attend college. Internships for high school students offer many positive benefits such as the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in a real world setting.

Additionally, internships can help students build important skills like time management, self advocacy and effective communication.

Recently, I was at the Hardwick Elementary School when I happened across two of our seniors, Sydney Slattery and Haley Ayer, who are completing an internship with the school nurse. Both students have an interest in the medical field.

In this case, it has allowed them to "try on" nursing.

One of the tasks that they have been responsible for includes implementing health lessons with our learners. In order to prepare for this, they had to research and learn about their topics. These included dental hygiene and hand washing.

The interns created lesson plans and delivered them in multiple classrooms. Slattery found when teaching a lesson to the students that she had to make the projects interesting and creative. She also stated the connection between her internship to nursing in general.

"This will help me as a nurse. It helps me understand effective teaching and helping others, that is what nurses do. I've learned to express myself in ways that others will understand."

Ayer expressed that she is hopeful having had this internship that colleges will look favorably on the internship experience when considering her college application. She has found working with the students to be very rewarding and fun.

**Ayer presented lessons on hand washing.**



Sydney Slattery did an internship with the school nurse and taught Hardwick Elementary School students a lesson on dental hygiene. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Students would wash their hands and then place them under lighting that shows where they may still have germs on their hands. Students then are taught proper hand washing and have the opportunity to put their hands under the light again.

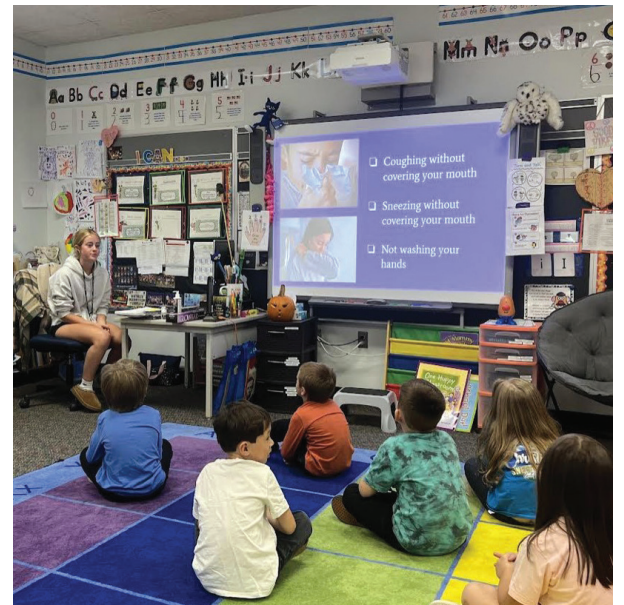
Students could immediately see the difference that proper hand washing made as their hands did not "light up" with germs. Their excitement and enthusiasm were contagious as they were very proud of them-

selves.

The nursing internships have included learning about the importance of patient confidentiality and promoting healthy lifestyles and activities. Slattery and Ayer have assisted with health screenings and even made "healthy" bulletin boards.

One thing our interns have realized about the medical field is that there is a lot of paperwork. But rather than deter our seniors from pursuing a career in the medical field, it has inspired them and made their commitment even stronger.

As Slattery and Ayer pursue their dreams of entering the medical field, their real world experience will benefit them. It is equally certain that the medical field will gain valuable assets with both students.



Haley Ayer also did an internship with the school nurse and taught Hardwick Elementary School students a lesson on hand washing.

## The U.S. Veteran

A Nation grateful for duty call,  
The job, well done by one and all,  
They had done their best without a word,  
With strength and valor their songs we heard.

Least we forget their deeds were done,  
We cherish them all, each and every one,  
The hopes and dreams were shattered too,  
All for a cloth, Red, White and Blue.

On foreign soil their best was shown,  
Defending land that they did not own,  
For love and sweethearts they may never see,  
The fight they have to set a strangers free.

Too many bodies new homes were found,  
We call these places, "Hallowed Ground."  
To the ones still living we must also share,  
To those grounds, Our Loving Care!

May we always remember to honor them all,  
The one's who stood and the ones who fell.  
Just remember their stories and never forget,  
They are known to us all, "As The U.S. Vet."

- Hank Houghton  
President, AVIP/VVA Chapter 294  
Retired Staff Sergeant, 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army  
Vietnam Veteran

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Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

## Hardwick Co-Op hosts food and sock drives

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, 444 Lower Road, will be collection food donations for the Tri-Parish Food Pantry and new socks to benefit veterans through HomeFront Strong, now through Dec. 15.

People who bring in five nonperishable food items

during this time will receive 5% off their purchase that day.

For every two pairs of socks that you buy from Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, the Co-Op will donate a pair to HomeFront Strong. People may also bring in new men's, women's and children's sized socks to be donated to HomeFront Strong.

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# NBSB announces return of Annual Toy Drive

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank is excited to announce the start of their Annual Toy Drive, running through Nov. 29, with a focus on ensuring a joyful holiday season for children in the communities they serve.

This year's Toy Drive continues North Brookfield Savings Bank's commitment to bring holiday cheer to those in need. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be collected at all branch locations, where every contribution will support local toy programs that make a difference in the lives of children.

"Our Annual Toy Drive is a testament to the generosity and compassion of our community members and employees. As a local community bank, we are proud to help brighten the holidays for children within our community" said Audrey Moulton, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank in a press release. "Through the kindness of our employees and community members, we can make sure that every child experiences the magic of the holiday season. We are so grateful for the continued support that helps us spread

joy to local families during the Season of Giving."

In addition to toys, monetary donations will be accepted at NBSB Branch locations. NBSB will match every dollar donated, along with contributing \$1 for each toy collected, up to \$250 per Branch location.

The Bank's Ware Branch will focus on collecting monetary donations to benefit the Ware Police and Fire Department's Christmas for Kids Program.

Donations will be accepted at these North Brookfield Savings Bank branches: North Brookfield Branch, 9 Gilbert St., partnering with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joys Program; East Brookfield Branch, 100 West Main St., Route 9, partnering with the East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program; West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main St., Route 9, partnering with the West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program; Ware Branch, 40 Main St., Route 9, partnering with the Ware Police and Fire Department Christmas for Kids Program (only accepting monetary donations for 2024); Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway, Routes 9 and 202,

partnering with the Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program; and the Three Rivers Branch, 2060 Main St., partnering with the Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's Community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit [www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com](http://www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com).

## About NBSB

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, and the Three Rivers Village of Palmer. NBSB offers a wide variety of deposit and loan products for individuals and businesses throughout central and western Massachusetts and has been a steadfast supporter of the communities it serves since 1854.

All deposits are insured by the FDIC and the Depositors Insurance Fund. For additional information, please call 1-866-711-6272 or visit [www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com](http://www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com).

# SNAP provides benefits beyond food

As we end a record year for inflation, Massachusetts residents' budgets are stretched tight.

What many may not realize is how Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits can provide significant relief for families during the holiday season enabling them to allocate more of their food budget toward festive meals and shared experiences across the Commonwealth.

At its most basic level, the SNAP makes it possible for people to purchase the food they want, where and when they choose.

SNAP is the largest of the federal assistance programs and provides ten times the amount of food as food banks. It's designed to expand with need through a pre-established distribution network, retail grocers.

However, lesser known is how enrolling in SNAP also automatically assures residents' eligibility for other benefits, including discounts for the MBTA, select cultural institutions and shows, utilities, education, and childcare programs, all of which can help to offset holiday costs.

"When residents think of SNAP, the first thing that often comes to mind is the program's former name, food stamps," said Khara Shearion, Senior Director, SNAP Outreach Programs at Project Bread, the leading statewide food security organization that operates the FoodSource Hotline connecting residents to nutrition support, like SNAP. "Not only does this lifesaving resource give residents the purchasing power to shop for healthy, culturally relevant and kid-friendly foods where and when they choose, but it also offers additional savings for residents to focus on other aspects of their lives, from getting to and from a job, to pursuing an education to exploring the Bay State's arts and culture scene. We want residents to know that when you enroll in SNAP for nutrition relief, you access so much

more."

Utilizing SNAP for savings outside of grocery stores is not a new concept, however too many residents are unaware of the additional discounts these benefits afford.

As of July 2024, more than a million people – over one in seven residents – in Massachusetts use SNAP. Nearly one in four households are using SNAP, and 68% of those households have a gross countable income of less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Not only does SNAP fulfill the immediate need for food for many families living below the poverty line, it also puts money back into the economy for all Massachusetts residents. Every \$1 of SNAP benefits generates at least \$1.50 in economic activity, which supports local communities and creates jobs.

There are over 5,000 retail establishments across the Commonwealth that accept SNAP and have more regular hours than food pantries.

Here are some additional ways in which SNAP benefits can help Massachusetts residents save:

Utilities – as heating bills rise this winter, SNAP users can access savings on gas & electric bills, as well as internet service.

Admission to museums – when kids are out of school and residents need something to do as a family, exclusive discounts can help make group outings possible.

Entertainment – similarly, individuals and families can catch a discounted holiday favorite show at places like ArtsEmerson, Boston Ballet, Boston Symphony Orchestra and more.

Transportation – SNAP recipients ages 12-25 may be able to use their benefits to purchase MBTA Youth Passes.

Winter Farmers Markets – SNAP users are eligible

for the Healthy Incentives Program which offers additional funds to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at markets supporting local farmers.

"SNAP is the fastest and most efficient resource that we have that provides people with money to purchase food," said Shearion. "Unlike food banks, SNAP does not rely on charitable donations, so it is a sustainable solution to help people afford enough to eat. Anyone who is eligible for SNAP benefits will receive them. There is no limit to how many folks can utilize for the program therefore you do not take away from others by enrolling."

People experiencing food insecurity should call into Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline 1-800-645-8333, which provides confidential assistance to connect with food resources, including SNAP benefits, in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. The hotline currently serves as the resource recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for residents seeking help with food access.

For more information, visit: [www.projectbread.org/get-help](http://www.projectbread.org/get-help).

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**Paula Ouimette**  
Editor  
QC11/15/23

# - sturbridge -

## Christmas by Candlelight returns to Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is pleased to announce the return of Christmas by Candlelight, a cherished holiday celebration of New England’s festive traditions.

Tickets are now on sale to the public for select dates in November and December.

The Village will transform into a stunning winter wonderland beginning Nov. 29, featuring over 85 beautifully decorated trees on the Christmas Tree Trail, over 80 wreaths, hundreds of candles illuminating the pathways, and 5,625 feet of garland adorning historic buildings. Each evening of the program will kick off at 4:30 p.m. with a magical lighting ceremony.

Visitors can experience a variety of activities, including knitting Christmas stockings and baking traditional holiday treats. Guests can stroll through the picturesque village and cross the enchanting Christmas Wish Bridge, a scenic path lined with trees along the Quinebaug River. Children will have the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus in their new cabin, where they can share their holiday wishes.

Visitors are also encouraged to participate in the annual Gingerbread House contest, where creative entries will be displayed for public voting.

“Christmas by Candlelight is a celebration of the cherished traditions that make the season truly special,” said Rhys Simmons, Director of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village in a press release. “Our goal is to transport you back in time with an experience that delights all the senses. Picture twinkling lights adorning the

trees, the enticing aromas and flavors of mulled cider and freshly baked gingerbread, and the familiar sounds of holiday carols echoing all around.”

This year’s Christmas by Candlelight will feature an array of live entertainment, including historical performances and readings of Christmas tales for children. New this year is “Upon a Midnight Clear – An Acoustic New England Christmas,” a musical journey showcasing local artists reinterpreting classic carols.

In addition to the festivities, guests can explore the origins of classic traditions such as nutcrackers and gingerbread, along with a remarkable miniature nativity scene featuring over 600 pieces. The Richardson House will showcase Italian Christmas customs.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for holiday shopping at the Miner Grant Store and the Ox & Yoke Mercantile.

“This event has become a tradition for so many guests year after year, and many families look forward to it as the highlight of their holiday season,” continued Simmons. “We invite everyone to experience the joy of the season, relish in classic traditions, and create new memories with loved ones this winter at Christmas by Candlelight.”

Christmas by Candlelight is made possible by our generous sponsors: Cornerstone Bank, Country Bank, G&F Precision Molding, and Southbridge Credit Union.

For more information on tickets and full event details, visit the Old Sturbridge Village website.

## Historical Society presents program on 18th century potter

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Historical Society presents “John Hinds: An 18th-Century Potter in Holland, MA”, on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Publick House.

Doug Lyon and Mike Forand are excited to present their research and discovery of the John Hinds Pottery/Kiln Site in Holland, and 18th-century pottery/kiln site they found about 40 years ago.

Hinds is a previously undocumented 18th-century New England redware potter (ca. 1714 to ca. 1793), who lived and worked in South Woodstock, Connecticut (ca 1740-1750) and in Holland/South Brimfield (1750-1793). He is mentioned several times in Lovering’s History of the Town of Holland as a potter.

His last mention as potter was in 1789. He was consistently documented as a potter in land deeds for some 39 years.

Lyon and Forand worked with Old Sturbridge Village for about four seasons at the Hinds site during which they recovered an abundance of artifacts,

and uncovered the kiln base. OSV has generously made their documentation and artifacts available for the presentation. Hinds’ work was typical of other potters’ wares in and around Boston, consisting of pots, mugs, (milk) pans, plates, jugs, etc.

Also included in the samples are several examples of slip ware, kiln furniture, and unique pieces of thin black incised sherds. Several samples of sherds are available for display. Photos of the Hinds Site and samples of his work are available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1654329772055488/>.


No other contemporary potter living in Hinds’ locale has yet been identified. The earliest nearby potters are the well-known Thomas Bugbee, born 1793 in South Woodstock Connecticut; Hervy Brooks b. 1779 in Goshen and who’s pottery and kiln are represented at OSV; and James Moore d. 1829 in Brimfield/Holland.

The program, which starts at 7 p.m., is free and open to the public, and generously hosted by Publick House.

## ‘A Country Christmas’ fair will be held Nov. 23

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church will host its annual Church Fair “A Country Christmas” on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 33 West Main St.

Featured will be a bake sale, knit and handcrafted items, a Christmas shop of gifts and décor, fudge, jams and jellies, Gramma’s Attic Thrift Store and lunch room. Come kick off the holiday season with the church.



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# Haston Library announces holiday events and closures

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

## Food drive and letters to Santa

The library will be holding a food drive Nov. 4 through Dec. 12. It will also be holding its annual Letters to Santa at the beginning of December on a date to be announced.

## Movie discussion group

The movie discussion group will meet on Nov. 21 to

talk about the film, “Planes, Trains and Automobiles” (1987, rated R) at 6 p.m.

## Book group

The book group will meet on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. to discuss “Gertrude Bell” by Georgina Howell.

## Story Times and Read, Build, Play

Story times are held in the Children’s Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. On Nov. 19, children will read “Keepunumuk” by Danielle Greendeer, Anthony Perry and Alexis Burton and make a turkey craft. On Nov.

26, children will read “Peyton Picks the Perfect Pie” by Jack Bishop and make a paper plate pie craft.

Read, Build, Play with Community Connections is held on the first Wednesday of the month from 10-11:30 a.m. The next program will be held on Dec. 4.

## Clubs for children

Art club will be held on the first and third Monday from 4-5 p.m. and Lego club will be held every Thursday starting at 4 p.m.

## SHOW | FROM PAGE 1

community members.

For your caffeine fix, make sure to stop by the gallery’s neighbor, The Joy of Beans, owned and operated by Joy Hinton.

“We’ve got two amazing women-owned small businesses right next to each other,” Fay said.

The Small Works Show is the final monthly exhibit of the year at the gallery, and it aims to share the enjoyment of art with everyone, event those with a limited budget.

“The reason we do a Small Works Show, is that small works generally mean less expensive works for gift giving,” Fay said. “Small pieces also make easier art gifts.”

Each of the gallery’s artists bring their own special talents to the “Small Works Show,” making these small pieces of art a one-of-a-kind gift to give to your loved one.

West Brookfield artist Geldard is known for her love of birds, which she displays through her whimsical watercolor paintings. Geldard has also been making jewelry for over 30, specializing in lampwork glass beads.

Geldard was recently one of three jewelry makers featured in a sold-out show at the gallery last month.

Bullock, who is also from West Brookfield, started with leatherwork at a saddlery before turning her talents to bookbinding. Bullock and her husband Ron restore books through their business Old Working Books & Bindery.

Her handbound journals and cards are popular items for sale at the gallery.

Brookfield artist Varjian enjoys the beauty of the natural world and often makes small, filtered areas of sunlight the focal point of her paintings.

Wood engraver and Petersham resident, Rorer, has a degree in printmaking and has done everything from teaching art to creating pen and ink illustrations for major publishers. She is the founder and sole proprietor of The Lone Oak Press.

Phillips, who is also from Brookfield, has created thousands of bold, colorful paintings in her journey as an artist after retiring as a hospice chaplain.

O’Donnell is known for her stunning landscape



“Ready for the Races” is a silver point drawing by Abigail Rorer. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

scenes, in addition to being a decorative painter and illustrator.

Pecora paints everything from quintessential New England scenes and landmarks to her beloved animal friends, using watercolor, egg tempera and oil paint.

Bentley’s paintings range from landscapes and seascapes to flowers, birds and abstracts. Her attention to light and shadow makes her subjects come alive on the canvas.

Princeton artist Quinn uses her surroundings as inspiration for her paintings, from the local natural preserves of Massachusetts to the sandy beaches of Cape Cod.

Cohen will have small pieces of her hand thrown pottery featured in the show.

Fay will be offering giclee prints of her Christmas lights paintings, inspired by local holiday lighting displays; some that are carefully planned put and placed around a home, and others that are more free-spirited and somewhat lackadaisical.

In addition to the pieces featured in the small works shows, the gallery’s jewelry displays have been fully restocked, and West Brookfield wood turner Frank White will have a number of his unique and detailed bowls, vases and more available for purchase.

Following the reception, the Small Works Show will remain displayed at the gallery until the end of December. The gallery will also be open for the town’s White Christmas celebration, held on Sunday, Dec. 8.

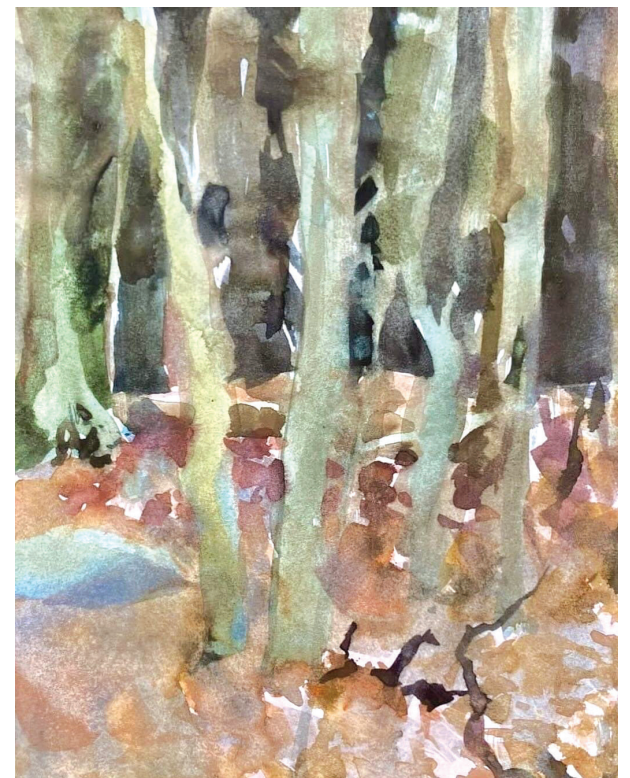
Fay invited everyone to stop by anytime during the artists’ reception to get a chance to meet with the creators behind these small, but powerful works of art.

“It’s always a great turnout,” she said of the Small Works Show.

## About West Brookfield Art & Frame

Gallery hours at West Brookfield Art & Frame are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information about West Brookfield Art & Frame, or upcoming shows, follow them on Facebook, visit [www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com](http://www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com), email [yafacceber@hotmail.com](mailto:yafacceber@hotmail.com), call 508-753-8604 or stop by during open hours.



“Dusk in Brookfield” is a watercolor by Vanessa Varjian.

## QVFPC | FROM PAGE 1

Blake said.

They also worked directly in the western Massachusetts food system as a farm worker, butcher and farm store clerk.

Blake said they love cooking, eating and spending time with their partner and cats.

## Community Food Access Assessment

Nisha Humayun, Project Coordinator for Community Health with Healthy Quaboag and the Town of Ware, presented the findings of the council’s Community Food Access Assessment which was conducted in conjunction with the Collaborative for Educational Services.

“Our purpose was to get firsthand accounts from community members,” Humayun said.

Humayun said this included conducting individual and community interviews with various community members, including local veterans. The interviews also helped to strengthen connections with food policy council members.

She said the purpose of the assessment was obtain firsthand accounts from community members and using the results to supplement a study conducted by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

Blake said key findings from the assessment include community assets, access barriers, priority needs and opportunities.

For community assets, they said there was a strong appreciation for living in a rural, smalltown environment from residents, which still offers multiple grocery store options as well as local agriculture.

Blake said public transportation is also available through the Quaboag Connector, and there is also access to local resources including food banks, senior

centers and churches.

Access barriers include distance and time, quality and availability of food, benefit programs, transportation, food costs and technology and delivery.

Distance, transportation and technology were some of the biggest barriers preventing residents from having access to nutritious food, Blake said.

The rising cost of food was the biggest concern of all interviewees. Those interviewed said monthly SNAP benefits were not keeping up with this cost, and farmers markets were expensive.

Senior Outreach Coordinator Carol Zins said many of her clients don’t use their SNAP benefits due to the small amount of food they can buy for \$23-30 a month.

Blake said while most people interviewed were aware of SNAP benefits and seniors centers and other services available to them, but not as many were familiar with HIP.

“HIP is a complicated process and it’s hard to understand,” Blake said.

HIP allows SNAP recipients to purchase fresh produce directly from local participating farmers, many of whom setup at local farmers markets in Belchertown and West Brookfield. The HIP program will reimburse the SNAP user’s electronic benefits card dollar to dollar up to a monthly cap of \$40, \$60 or \$80.

## Priority needs of Quaboag Valley

Blake said priority needs of the Quaboag Valley include access to local agriculture, improvements to food pantries, improvements to SNAP/HIP, discount offers and nutrition education

## QVFPC Dashboard

Another outcome of the assessment is a dashboard made by CMRPC that shows all of the farms in the region that are available and that accept SNAP and HIP benefits.

“It would be a great resource to share out with our community,” Sawyer said.

To access the dashboard, visit <https://cmrpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/fee2d96f3e424316a71bb-2c4e6e3c0c4>.

## About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

## MEETING | FROM PAGE 1

tion that the board waive the right, stating that the parcel would be improved with a single family house and would “not be a significant open space loss to the town.”

## General bylaw committee appointments

James Caldwell, Brandon Avery and Tara Hayes were appointed to serve on the newly formed General Bylaw Committee.

“They’ve been actively involved in a lot of things,” Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said of the committee members.

These three were the only residents to express interest in serving on the committee to review the town’s general bylaws.

## Special town meeting

A special town meeting will be held on Friday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. in the North Brookfield Elementary School auditorium.



# SPORTS

## Cougars fall to top-seeded Randolph



Jacob Cacace scrambles around during action this season.

RANDOLPH – The Quaboag Regional High School football team was in action last Friday evening in the Round of 16 in the Division 8 State Tournament. They faced top-seeded Randolph and were overwhelmed 67-6. The Cougars dropped to 4-5 on the season and were placed in nonplayoff action for Week 10 against Littleton High School on Friday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. They will then face Ware on the road on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28 at 10 a.m..



The Cougars huddle before the play. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Trenton Benson gets ready to snap the ball.



Brason Sauriol makes a catch.



Reilly Comptois makes a move up the field.

## Field hockey defeats Nantucket, moves to quarterfinals

BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin field hockey defeated Nantucket High School 2-1. The Panthers moved into the quarterfinals of the Division 4 State Tournament where they were scheduled to face off against the three-time defending state champion Uxbridge. Highlights from that game will be in next week's edition.

RIGHT: Farrah Wojcik makes an insert pass on a penalty corner. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Makenzie Casey looks to control the ball in the middle of the field.



Violet Kelley tries to play a bouncing ball.



Kailynn Schuster makes a block.



Abby Rogowski sends the ball into the circle.

- sports -

# Greylock edge's Pathfinder WMass final



Evan Costa looks to play the loose ball.



Zander Auffrey turns to corral a loose ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SPRINGFIELD – In the Western Mass. Class D finals on Saturday, Nov. 2 at Central High School, Pathfinder's Adonis Dupre and Evan Costa scored goals to help the Pioneers come back in the game. But an overtime goal by Mt. Greylock would give the Mounties the Western Mass. title. Pathfinder would move on to the state tournament, facing Mystic Valley Regional Charter on the road to open the tournament.



Justin Davis gets ready to make a goal kick.



Jaleel Nevue-Roman gets ready to head the ball.



Goalie Aiden Santiago punts the ball away.



Ethan DeBettencourt fights to keep the ball.

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League reached the final week in round one of their league this season.

The winner of the round will receive a playoff berth in their championship roll off. The final league night of round one was bowled on Nov. 5. One of the matchups was between Compression and Team BK.

In game one, Compression defeated BK by a score of 342-336. Jay Dominick of Compression carried his team to victory with a 101 in game one. In game two, Team BK was the winner by scoring 352 to Compression's 329.

In game three, Compression was the winner by a score of 365-356. However, Team BK was the winner of total pinfall 1044-1036. Each team received two points to wrap up the first round of league.

Another match consisted of Daft Kings bowling against The Mailmen. In game one, The Mailmen were victorious over Daft Kings, 389-361. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen started off the night with a 133.

In game two, Mailmen delivered another strong game and won 419-391. Surprise stayed consistent and bowled well over is 108 average with a 119. Dave Cobleigh of Daft Kings had a good second game with a 125.

In game three, Mailmen won for a three-game sweep

over Daft Kings, 403-383. Surprise finished with a 118 and a series of 370, his best series this season. Cobleigh finished with a 108 and a series of 333.

Total pinfall was won in favor of Mailmen, 1211-1135.

Gutter Mouths bowled against Last in Line and were the top seeds going into the final week of round one. In game one, Gutter Mouths got the win, 376-326. In game two, Gutter Mouths won again by a score of 380-375, Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths bowled a 113 and Vinny Navarro of Last in Line bowled a 107.

In game three, Last in Line won 356-349. Total pinfall was won by Gutter Mouths, 1105-1057. The Gutter Mouths have successfully won the first round of the season and will compete in the championship roll off at the end of the season.

### Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Monday Bogey Doubles league reached the month of November.

Hanging on to a slim lead in first place is the team of Tom Clauson and Gary Santora with 46 wins. The Team of Pellett & Nester are in second place with 42 wins. Mondor & Brayton are in third place with 40 wins.

Pellett & Nester bowled against the team of Dave Rando and Duncan MacDougall. In game one, Pellett & Nester won the first game 255-244. In game two, Pellett & Nester won again 266-255. Nester bowled a 134 in game two.

In game three, Pellett & Nester won again for a three-game sweep, 267-266. Nester finished with a 121 and a series of 350. Total pinfall was in favor Pellett & Nester, 788-765.

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- sports -

# T-Birds pick up point in OT defeat

HERSHEY, PA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-8-1-0) incredibly erased a two-goal deficit in the final minute of the third, but the Hershey Bears (9-3-1-0) survived to pick up a 3-2 overtime win at the Giant Center on Sunday.

Like the opening 20 minutes on Saturday, the homestanding Bears were ferocious in getting shots at the Springfield net, this time on Colten Ellis. However, like the night before, the T-Birds got a sensational first period from their goaltender, as Ellis had a response to all 20 shots the Hershey attack unleashed, including chances that came from two power plays. The 20 stops were the most in a single period this season by a Springfield netminder.

At the other end, Clay Stevenson was starting his first start in nearly a month after missing six games with an upper-body injury, and the Hershey goaltender had a distinctly quieter workload, turning aside seven Springfield offerings and helping the Bears' penalty kill fend off one T-Birds power play.

Shots on goal did not come as easily for Hershey in the middle period. Still, the fourth line did get the Bears on the board first at the 10:14 mark when Matt Strome retrieved a loose puck below the goal line and fired a pass into the blue paint to a crashing Riley Sutter, who chipped it over Ellis on the glove side to make it 1-0.

The Bears' defense proved to be an impenetra-

ble force in the second, as Springfield managed just four shots on goal in the entire period, and the Hershey penalty kill dispatched two more Thunderbirds man-advantage opportunities.

Stevenson and the Hershey defense corps showed no signs of relenting anything to the T-Birds, and when Spencer Smallman tucked a puck into an empty net with 2:06 remaining, the Bears' 2-0 lead seemed secure.

However, the never-say-die T-Birds refused to go down. Samuel Johannesson scored his first AHL goal with 40.5 seconds remaining, squeezing a wrist shot between Stevenson's legs to end the shutout bid.

Just 27 seconds later, with Ellis at the bench for an extra skater, Nikita Alexandrov beared in on the right wing side and backhanded the puck into the paint. With Matthew Peca crashing the net, the shot attempt slipped under Stevenson's legs, and the game was tied 2-2 heading into overtime.

With momentum on their side, the T-Birds could not quite complete the miraculous comeback attempt. Ellis denied his 40th shot of the night to stop Pierrick Dube in the opening minute of overtime. Unfortunately for the T-Birds netminder, the loose rebound went right on the stick of Mike Vecchione, who pushed it across the line to give Hershey the 3-2 victory.

The T-Birds return to home ice for five of the next six games, beginning on Friday, Nov. 15 when they host the Lehigh Valley Phantoms.

# Railers score big overtime win

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (5-3-0-0 10pts) beat the Norfolk Admirals (6-2-3-0, 15pts), on Sunday by a final score of 4-3 in front of a crowd of 2,539 at the DCU Center.

It was Norfolk who scored first tonight when Carson Musser (1-2-3) scored just under three minutes into the game. The Railers then scored back-to-back goals, coming from Ryan Verrier (1-0-1) and Griffin Loughran (1-0-1). Norfolk finished the first period scoring when Connor Fedorek (1-0-1) tied the game at 2-2. Norfolk retook the lead in the second with a goal from Josh McDougall (1-1-2). The Railers tied it back up less than a minute later when Anthony Repaci (2-0-2) cashed in. The third period was scoreless ending regulation tied up at 3-3. It was Repaci who scored the game winner 38 seconds into overtime sealing the 4-3 win for Worcester.

Norfolk jumped out to an early 1-0 lead tonight. Carson Musser (3rd) squared up and ripped one by the glove of Worcester's John Muse just 2:43 into the first. Later in the first Ryan Verrier (1st) found the back of the net to tie the game 1-1 7:30 into the first. Griffin Loughran (2nd) later made it 2-1 Worcester when he scored just after their power play expired. Norfolk tied it up at 2-2 with just under three minutes left in the first with a goal from Connor Fedorek (2nd). Worcester outshot Norfolk 15-12.

Norfolk took back the lead to start the scoring in the second period. They made the score 3-2 in the second when Josh McDougall (2nd) scored on the powerplay 8:09 into the period. Not even a minute later Anthony Repaci (6th) got free on a breakaway and cashed in to tie the game back up at 3-3. Shots favored Worcester 11-8.

The Admirals had a chance to regain the lead midway through the third when they had a 5-on-3 powerplay, but the Railers penalty kill held strong. The Railers killed 35 seconds of 5-on-3, and then successfully killed the remaining 1:25 of Norfolk power play time. Neither team would find the back of the net before the end of regulation. Worcester outshot Norfolk 10-7.

It took less than a minute for Anthony Repaci (7th) to seal this one in overtime. As he skated in on the net and buried the overtime winner just 38 seconds into overtime. Shots were even 1-1 in overtime and favored Worcester 37-28 overall.

# Hall of Fame Series heads for Las Vegas

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), announced that the 2027 Hall of Fame Series Las Vegas will take place at the iconic Allegiant Stadium on November 12, 2027, marking the first-ever basketball game at the renowned stadium.

The historic event will feature two marquee matchups between elite men's basketball programs: Arizona vs. Duke and Indiana vs. Kansas. Both games will once again be showcased on TNT Sports' networks and platforms, with additional programming information to be announced at a later date.

These four teams represent some of the most storied traditions in college basketball, with a combined 15 national championships, over 35 Hall of Famers, and a legion of passionate fans. The rivalry between Duke and Arizona, which will be on display in Tucson, Ariz., on November 22, as well as the timeless Kansas vs. Indiana matchup, is set to provide fans an unforgettable experience and signal a significant milestone in Las Vegas' sports history.

Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders and Super Bowl LVIII, will be hosting its first college basketball games, showcasing the versatility of the venue. The stadium will also serve as the site for the 2028 NCAA Men's Final Four, further solidifying its position as a premier destination for top-tier sporting events.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a collection of multi-game, singular events that showcase several of the top collegiate basketball teams in exciting non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. The inaugural Hall of Fame Series took place in 2023 in Las Vegas, Charlotte, San Antonio, Toronto, and Phoenix, and the series continues its successful run in 2024 with upcoming stops in Las Vegas (November 4), Phoenix (November 14), Baltimore (November 15), and New York (December 14).

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MARKET | FROM PAGE 1

the common and enter the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield at 36 North Main St. to encounter where the Market had migrated.

Of course, The West Brookfield Winter Farmer's Market did not just show up at the church. This event has been operating in the town for a number of years, beginning in late fall and running until early spring.

If you have never been, it is a warm and welcoming spot, even when the weather turns frosty, if it does this winter. The temps do not seem to want to follow older patterns.

Most of the vendors have been regulars, but there are new entrants.

As one walks through the door, first on the right is Robyn Scott and her Blair House Blooms. As the market season progresses, we can expect her table to be covered with beautiful colored tulips, but on this first day, Robyn had tulip and daffodil bulbs that one could plant at home.

Passing Blair House, there is Elzire's Acre. Elzire's Acre, famed for its goat milk soap, has been coming to the Winter Market for some years now. Usually represented by Chad or Terri, the husband-and-wife entrepreneurs, this Wednesday, Chloe was staffing the table and she had with her a couple of special holiday soaps, Angel's Kiss, and Angel's Hug.

After Elzire's Acre is Linda Fuchs' Flourish Farm. Flourish, a longtime summer market farm, has been with the winter market since the beginning. On this day she had fresh ginger and will have micro greens, both cut and living.

Cut greens are cut the day of the market. Linda will miss some markets during a trip to Utah to visit grandkids.

Making a left after Flourish, there is Kelly Homestead Apiary from Charlton, presided over by Ginger. On the colorful table was a display of bee products from honey to hand dipped candles. Kelly Homestead also brings eggs from their hens as well.

New this year is chicken on sale.

As we approach thanksgiving, Kelly Homestead has the bird, that is, Pasture Raised Organically Produced Turkeys. Orders are being taken now at 508-784-1014 and <https://www.kellyhomesteadapiary.com/>.

Moving on from Kelly Homestead is the table of Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen, new to the market this year.

Sara Doubleday brought Lucky Me farm & Kitchen down from New Braintree to be part of the market. She grew up making relishes and got going doing

the pandemic. The table is chock full of jams made from locally sourced ingredients such that it would be difficult not to find what you want.

After Sara is Farm46, back at the market for the 2024/25 season. Farm46 is the family affair of Rich Laba, his wife Amy and daughters Madison and Charlotte. They raise Berkshire pigs and bring to the market beautiful cuts of pork and bacon, as well as eggs.

Turning left is a huge departure for the market, a distillery. It goes by the name, Deep Roots Distillery, and why not as it is deeply rooted in the community by being as locally sourced as possible.

The bottles on display and for sale all looked lovely, but the enterprise is more than beverages.

There is a from scratch kitchen as well that is in keeping with the spirit of the distillery. The two gentlemen at the table spoke with enthusiasm about their business. So, you could go down to their shop at the Mill Building in Fiskdale, but you can as well come to the market on Wednesday.

Also new at the market and up from Monson is Girlie's Cakes. Alysse, the impresario, bakes gluten free and vegan specialties. This is also a departure for the market.

Alysse started with her great grandmother, and pursued baking as a hobby before going into business. She brought a lot of product to the market, all of it looked scrumptious.

Turning left, there is John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm. John has been bringing the farm to the market since the beginning. With their many taps, the syrup keeps on flowing, but that is not all. They make delicious ice cream and purvey that at the market as well.

The last vendor along the wall is also the linchpin. Joy Hinton is in charge of the winter market, but that is not what she is most known for. The specialty coffees of Her Joy Of Beans are purchased at the markets summer and winter and at her main street downtown shop.

As usual, at the first winter market, she was a ball of energy with no lack of plans. At the shop, there will be the coffee based Italian dessert, Affogato. Though not going out of the coffee business, Mem Tea will be served, probably by the new Barista, Mora. First Fridays will see mocktails.

Joy is a chess aficionado and is planning a chess club. Joy of Beans would be a perfect spot.

There is one vendor not up against a



Joy Hinton of The Joy of Beans Coffee. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Linda Fuchs of Flourish Farms.

wall. Still Life Farm takes up the center of the room and well it should. As the weather gets colder, the farm's winter greenhouses supply the market with fresh vegetables. This year, two new greenhouses have come online.

The Hardwick based operation is also a longtime winter market vendor.

There will be more vendors in the

coming weeks and the market will be returning every Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. through March 12, 2025.

Leave the cold outside and come into the warmth of a winter farmer's market.

Please note the market will be closed on Nov. 27 except for special Thanksgiving pre-order pick-ups. Also, the market is closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.



Ice cream and maple products from Thompson's Maple Farm.



Rich Laba and Farm46 bring Berkshire Breed pork products to market.



The lads from Deep Roots Distillery and Kitchen.

**MEETING | FROM PAGE 1**

chamber for over 20 years, and how this year has “been incredible” for the chamber.

“The chamber is back,” she said. “The chamber is an excellent resource to talk to businesses, professionals...we build relationships and trust.”

Niedziela said this has been a rebuilding year for the chamber, with the hiring of CEO James Przypek, who has served in that role for seven months.

Przypek said he is “so impressed” with the chamber and its network of businesses.

In his role as CEO, Przypek has brought back the chamber’s annual golf outing, enhanced the business guide and produced a quarterly newsletter. He said 15 new members businesses have joined this year as well.

Following the election of officers, Przypek introduced Campbell, a Sunderland resident whose background in equine studies has allowed her to help people rediscover joy and power in the treatment of PTSD, trauma, grief and depression.

Campbell founded Heroes, Horses & Hounds, an organization that works with rescued horses and dogs that are retrained for service and animal assisted programs.

She spoke about ways you can achieve success in all areas of your life through finding a work/life balance.

Campbell said for 20 years, she “put herself through it,” pushing herself professionally until she reached burnout and knew she needed to make a change.

“It’s been a very good journey now, but going through it was awful,” she said.

Campbell shared how some of the things we do to help us be productive and organized, such as creating “to-do” lists, can actually cause additional stress and hold us back.

“Why does a traditional to-do list fail?” Campbell asked. “It doesn’t get organized by priority.”

Campbell said another factor is discipline, which she said is something that all people are capable of harnessing.

“Discipline is not a personality trait,

it’s something that we all have,” she said. “Each day we have a certain amount.”

Campbell said one way to make the to-do list work for you is to prioritize one task in each of these three areas: personal, physical and professional. She said there are going to be days where the focus needs to be on one area over the other, and that is okay.

“Life is not a balance, a perfect even keel all the time...think balancing, not balance,” she said. “The important part is what works for you.”

Campbell encouraged people to make themselves the most valuable asset in their professional lives in order to achieve work/life balance.

She said one way she does this, is to ask herself the question “Why am I doing what I am doing?” seven to nine times, or until she feels an emotional reaction.

“This is the core piece that is going to get me up and going,” she said. “That’s what’s going to help you clarify what you want to do.”

Another tip she suggested was to envision your perfect day; from start to finish.

“By having this perfect day in mind, find what works for your business and your life,” she said. “Look at your day, what did I do well in? Is there something I want to change, or did I rock it today?”

Establishing time blocks is another way to keep your day productive while avoiding burnout, working one to two hours at a time and taking a 30 minute break before getting back to work. She said people start looking for distractions from work when their brains are tired.

“It’s a great way to stay productive longer throughout the day,” Campbell said.

Campbell said it’s also important to give yourself rewards to keep momentum going.

“Give yourself little prizes and celebrations,” she said.

Campbell encouraged attendees to delegate works that could be completed by someone else, or with the help of artificial intelligence or automation. She said to follow the 80/20 rule, spending 80% of your day doing what sets you

apart and delegating the other 20%.

Campbell explained the physical impact that burnout can have on the brain and how it causes “functional freeze.” Burnout can be both mental and physical.

“Burnout is ‘I want to, I need to, but I can’t,’” Campbell said.

Campbell said studies have shown that burnout floods the body with cortisol and adrenaline, which creates inflammation in both the body and the brain. She said it starts to kill cells and physically shrinks the brain.

This shrinking can impact memory, decision making and learning.

“You start to feel like you are losing it, because you are,” she said.

The good news, Campbell said, is that the brain can heal and that 1,200 new cells are made every day. She said the new cells go where they are used, and that new synapses can be created through movement and play.

“Exercise and play are so important,” Campbell said. “By putting play into your day...it allows you to learn better.”

Healing the brain after burnout can be achieved through meditation, exercise, craniosacral therapy, sound healing, grounding, time spent in nature and time spent with supportive friends and families.

“The science of laughter is amazing,” Campbell said. “It brings you back to wellness...make sure you’re having fun.”

Campbell said spending 20 minutes outside just listening to the birds sing is another way to help heal the brain, as it brings us back to our primal roots, when birds singing represented safety.

“It triggers the safety signal in our bodies,” Campbell said. “Birds don’t

sing unless it’s safe.”

Campbell demonstrated three exercises that can be accomplished right from your chair, that will help signal safety in our bodies.

The first one was curling your upper body forward over your legs while sitting; the second was running in place (either standing or sitting down) and the third was placing one hand over your stomach and the other over your chest and taking deep breaths.

For more information about Campbell’s work and Heroes, Horses & Hounds, visit www.heroeshh.org.

**About QHMA**

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belcher-town, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhma.com.

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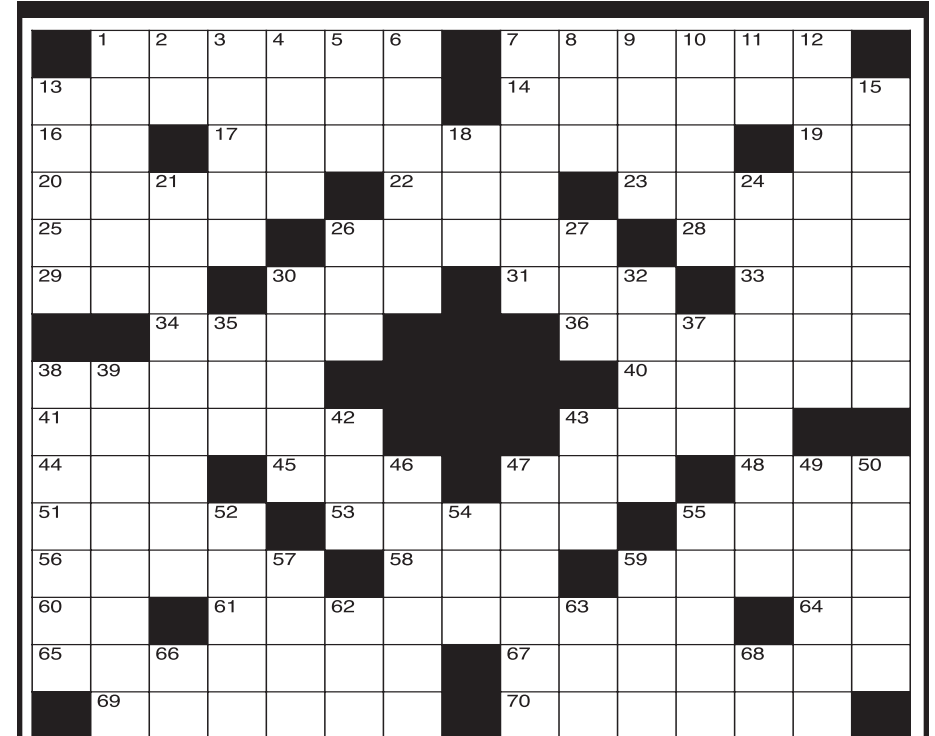
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Schoolhouse tool
- 7. Martens
- 13. Slags
- 14. One who scrapes
- 16. Centiliter
- 17. White wine
- 19. Of I
- 20. Former Syracuse great Warrick
- 22. Relating to the ear
- 23. Sandwich shops
- 25. Victories
- 26. White (French)
- 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 29. Genus of parrots
- 30. Unhappy
- 31. Talk incessantly
- 33. Type of Squad
- 34. Unit of perceived loudness
- 36. Violent seizure of property
- 38. Agave
- 40. Sound units
- 41. Removes from record
- 43. Partner to Mama
- 44. Mythological bird
- 45. Dash
- 47. Hair product
- 48. Two-year-old sheep
- 51. Signs a deal
- 53. Conifer
- 55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia
- 56. Wife of Muhammed
- 58. British Air Aces
- 59. Ears or ear-like appendages
- 60. Not caps
- 61. Deep-bodied sea dweller
- 64. Rural delivery
- 65. Feeling
- 67. Study of relations of organisms to one another
- 69. Room to argue
- 70. Question

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Cream puff
- 2. Road open
- 3. Stressed syllable
- 4. Thailand's former name
- 5. Cologne
- 6. Recounted
- 7. Garment of cloth
- 8. Airborne (abbr.)
- 9. Reproduced
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 12. Smallest interval in Western music
- 13. Unstressed central vowel
- 15. Lives in
- 18. When you expect to get somewhere
- 21. Storage bags
- 24. One who covers with plastic
- 26. Cast out
- 27. Automobile
- 30. Repaired shoe
- 32. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 35. Possesses
- 37. Soda
- 38. Programs
- 39. In an unexpected way
- 42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 43. For each
- 46. Unbelief
- 47. Seized or impaled
- 49. Arrive on the scene
- 50. Especially happy
- 52. Classic western film
- 54. Split pulses
- 55. Frida \_; Painter
- 57. Start again
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 62. Young women's association
- 63. Frozen water
- 66. "The First State"
- 68. Computers need one

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**QVDC IS LOOKING** for a part-time facilities person to attend to three properties in downtown Ware. Duties include minor repairs, scheduling necessary inspections and serving as a liaison with outside contractors. Previous maintenance experience preferred. Please visit [www.qvdc.org](http://www.qvdc.org) for information.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.** Applicants must possess a Massachusetts Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement and possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us.** Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TREASURER.** Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us.** Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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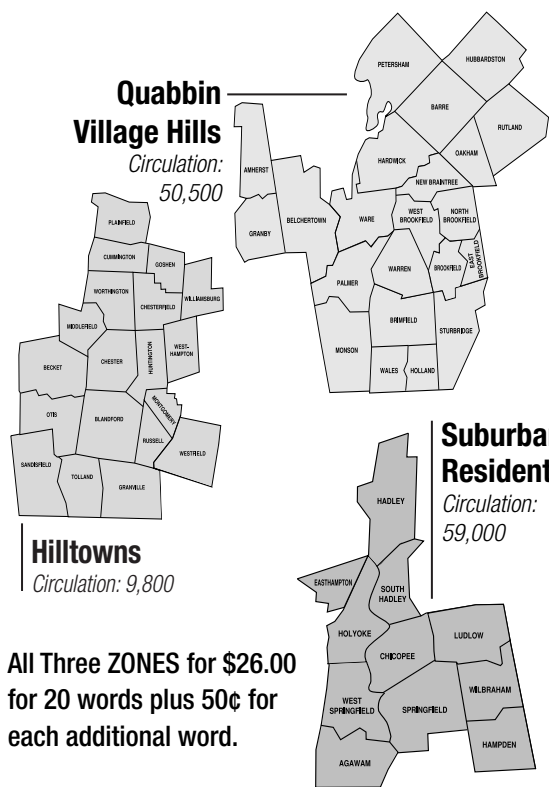
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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## - public safety -

### New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 4-11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 24 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, two traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, two complaints, one fraud, one safety hazard, four animal calls and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

**Monday, Nov. 4**

1:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Officer Handled  
 2:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 4:47 p.m. Medical Emergency, Sibley Road, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Nov. 5**

10:06 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

**Wednesday, Nov. 6**

2:31 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Thursday, Nov. 7**

12:37 p.m. Fraud, Padre Road, Officer Handled

1:03 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

4:18 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Friday, Nov. 8**

3:40 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Oakham Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Nov. 9**

9:39 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

9:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barr Road, Officer Handled

4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

5:16 p.m. Safety Hazard, Wine Road, Services Rendered

**Sunday, Nov. 10**

2:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

4:27 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Brookfield Road, Unfounded

10:24 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

### Local police officers honored for heroic actions

Eight members of the Municipal Police Training Committee's Holyoke Police Academy were honored this spring for their actions at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

Student officers included Steven Fritscher of the Ware Police Department, Tyler Hosley of the Barre Police Department, Deven Kingman of the Sturbridge Police Department, Jacob Podmore of the South Hadley Police Department, Taina Rivera of the Chicopee Police Department, Connor Shea of the Amherst Police Department, Corey Therrien of the Chicopee Police Department and Bianca Dixon of the University of Massachusetts Police Department.

"These students officers didn't hesitate to use lessons from their academy training, moving swiftly to remove a victim from their vehicle, extinguish flames, and mitigate for obvious hazards," said MPTC Holyoke Academy Director Michele Lyons in a press release. "Their remarkable action and compassionate approach to victims during a life-threatening situation is truly exemplary."

On Jan. 25, the students of the 2nd Holyoke Recruit Officer Class were traveling from the Holyoke Academy to East Mountain Country Club for an afternoon of speed measurement practical along the busy stretch of road.

Leaving the academy at approximately noon, there was a line of student cars going up and over the stretch of Route 202 between Holyoke and Westfield. The students encountered a serious two-car accident that had just occurred, and no public safety was on scene yet.

Several student officers immediately got out of their vehicles and rushed into the accident scene to help. Officer Taina Rivera noticed that there were several people around the vehicles and made the decision to step back and contact 911. She was able to calmly relay information to the dispatch personnel and kept the communication line open until help arrived.

Students assisted the driver and passenger of the first vehicle. The passenger

was able to exit on their own, although understandably dazed. They rendered basic first aid and assisted the driver out of the vehicle.

Both parties were moved from the cars to a safer location.

The students quickly found out that the second of the two vehicles they were trying to enter was locked and they could see it filling with smoke. Multiple students went out to other vehicles now stopped along the roadside and were able to secure two fire extinguishers.

One student had a window breaking tool in his own vehicle, and they were able to gain access to the car by breaking one of its windows.

Officer Corey Therrien was able to get into the passenger side of the vehicle and remove the driver's seatbelt. Once the driver's side door was open the students realized the driver of the car was injured to the point that they were not able to remove him from the vehicle.

The group was able to deploy the fire extinguishers and stop the flames and smoke from entering the cabin through the front of the car.

All these actions most likely happened in a span of less than five minutes. By the time the Staff Instructor and Academy Director arrived on scene, Holyoke Police Department, Holyoke Fire and EMS were also arriving and the students were instructed to clear the scene.

They gathered with the Academy Director on the roadside for safety and injury checks. Once it was determined that no student officers were involved in the crash and only a few minor injuries were sustained during the breaking of the glass, students were instructed to return to the academy building for debrief and next steps.

It is believed that the first car, traveling from Westfield to Holyoke, crossed the centerline and hit the second car head on, just at the top of the hill by the turn onto Apremont Highway. This is a site of many accidents and an area of concern for local drivers.

### Recent fires highlight increased wildfire risk throughout the northeast

Brush fires continue to break out across Massachusetts, Connecticut, and other New England states as increasing drought conditions, combined with strong winds and dry air, create ideal conditions for fires to ignite and quickly spread.

According to the National Weather Service, fire weather concerns also remain in effect across the northeast including as far south as New Jersey, New York State, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

"While most Northeast residents consider wildfires a threat for other parts of the country, they present risks to all of us," said Michele Steinberg, director of the National Fire Protection Association wildfire division said in a press release. "The brush fires we've seen over the past several days are evidence of these growing threats."

The NFPA encourages the public to stay vigilant and follow safety guidelines for the safe handling and disposal of ignition sources outdoors, which can help minimize the risk of brush fires and associated hazards:

**Yard debris burns:** Contact your local fire department to determine the requirements and restrictions for open burning in your community. Follow all local burn regulations, burn bans, and outdoor burning restrictions in your area. These can apply to both debris burning and campfires.

Discarded cigarettes and other

smoking materials: Never throw away lit cigarettes outside or toss matches or other smoking materials from a moving vehicle. These actions can ignite dry grass and start a fire.

**Vehicles and equipment:** Practice fire safety when using lawnmowers, chainsaws, weed trimmers, grinders, and tractors—all things that can throw sparks. Make sure tow chains are properly connected and not dragging when pulling equipment or trailers behind a vehicle.

**Campfires:** Before setting up a campfire, check with your local fire department to be sure it is permitted. Follow all local burn regulations, burn bans, and outdoor burning restrictions in your area.

**About the NFPA**

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [www.nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess).

## - legal notices -

**Town of East Brookfield Conservation Commission**

The Town of East Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c. 131, s. 40) to consider an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area

Delineation. The hearing will be held at **7:00 PM on November 19, 2024**, in Meeting Room A at the Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

This Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation has been submit-

ted by Coley Campbell, CSX Real Estate & Industrial Development, 500 Water Street, J-180, Jacksonville, Florida, 32202, for property located at "0" West Main Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515 (Assessors Map 006.0-0211-0049.0). 11/15/2024

# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

**Part Time Office Clerk**

The Warren Housing Authority is seeking a highly motivated individual for the part-time administrative clerk to perform program support to the Executive Director. Duties include but not limited to performing general clerical duties including typing, answering phones, data entry, processing of applications including CHAMP, determining housing eligibility as well as assisting applicants and residents, and perform other related duties.

Candidate should have a proven history of being able to work independently and as part of a team. The individual should possess initiative, be detail oriented, organized, have the ability to multitask.

**Qualifications:** High School/GED, ability to communicate orally and in writing, to understand and follow oral and written instructions, ability to utilize housing software and Microsoft office. Also, the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with applicants and residents, external agencies, co-workers and the public from varying socio-economic backgrounds, and to maintain confidentiality.

This Position is part time at 18 hours weekly at an hourly rate of \$20.00. Please submit cover letter and resume to Kenneth R. Martin, Consulting at [kenmartin1208@gmail.com](mailto:kenmartin1208@gmail.com). The position is open until filled.

Equal Opportunity Employer.



# QUABOAG CURRENT

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
Bank hosts toy drive  
p6

**STURBRIDGE**  
Program on potter  
Nov. 21 p7

**BROOKFIELD**  
Rotary Club donates  
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Classifieds  
Police Logs

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Volume 17, Number 51

Friday, November 15, 2024

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